Claims

1. A communication method comprising the steps of:

receiving by a communication server content and information describing the content from a first terminal;

sending a notification message from the communication server to a second terminal, the notification message notifying about availability of the content;

forming a streaming session between the communication server and the second terminal, using the information describing the content; and

transmitting the content in sequential sub-parts from the communication server to the second terminal, during the streaming session.

2. A communication method according to claim 1, further comprising sending the content and the information describing the content from the first terminal to the communication server in separate messages.

3. A communication method according to claim 1, further comprising sending by the communication server to the second terminal the information describing the content as a media component of a multimedia message.

4. A communication method according to claim 1, wherein the content comprises at least one non-streamable component and at least one description of a streamable component.

5. A communication method according to claim 1, further comprising requesting the content by the second terminal before the transmitting the content from the communication server to the second terminal.

6. A communication method according to claim 1, further comprising generating the content at the first terminal.

7. A method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of streaming the content generated at the first terminal to the communication server.

8. A method according to claim 6 further comprising the step of sending the information describing the content before the content generation is complete.

9. A method according to any of the claim 1 further comprising the step of sending the information describing the content from the communication server to the second terminal within the notification message.

10. A method according to claim 1, wherein the communication server comprises a content server for storing and transmitting the content and a notification server for receiving and transmitting notification messages, wherein the content server and the notification server have a physical relationship selected from the group consisting of: a single unit, separate units, and separate units distributed at different geographic locations.

11. A method according to claim 1 further comprising implementing the method as part of a Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS).

12. A method according to claim 1 further comprising multicasting the content to at least one other terminal in addition to the second terminal.

13. A communications system comprising:

a plurality of terminals including a first terminal and a second terminal;

a communication server accessible to the plurality of terminals;

means for sending content and information describing the content from the first terminal to the communication server;

means for sending a notification message from the communication server to the second terminal, the notification message notifying the second terminal about availability of the content;

means for forming a streaming session between the communication server

and the second terminal, using the information describing the content;

means for transmitting the content in sequential sub-parts from the communication server to the second terminal, during the streaming session.

14. A communications system according to claim 13, further comprising means for generating the content at the first terminal.

15. A communications system according to claim 13, wherein the communication server comprises a notification server for receiving the information describing the content from the first terminal and for sending the notification message to the second terminal.

16. A communications system according to claim 13, wherein the communication server further comprises a content server for receiving the content from the first terminal and for transmitting the content to the second terminal.

17. A communication server for serving a plurality of terminals, the communication server comprising:

means for receiving from a first terminal content and information describing the content;

means for sending a notification message to a second terminal, the notification message notifying the second terminal about availability of the content;

means for forming a streaming session with the second terminal, using the information describing the content; and

means for transmitting the content in sequential sub-parts to the second terminal during the streaming session.

18. A computer program product comprising:

computer program code for causing a communication server to receive content and information describing the content from a first terminal;

computer program code for causing the communication server to send a notification message from the communication server to a second terminal, the

notification message notifying the second terminal about availability of the content;

computer program code for causing the communication server to form a streaming session between the communication server and the second terminal, using the information describing the content; and

computer program code for causing the communication server to transmit the content in sequential sub-parts from the communication server to the second terminal, during the streaming session.

19. A communication device comprising:

means for receiving from a communication server information describing a message intended for the communication device;

the message comprising a streamable component;

the information describing the message comprising information describing the streamable component;

the communication device further comprising:

means for forming, using the information describing the streamable component, a streaming session with the communication server for receiving the streamable component; and

means for receiving the content in sequential sub-parts from the communication server.

20. A computer program product comprising:

computer program code for causing a communication device to receive from a communication server information describing a message intended for the communication device;

the message comprising a streamable component;

the information describing the message comprising information describing the streamable component;

the computer program product further comprising:

computer program code for causing the communication device to form, using the information describing the streamable component, a streaming session with the communication server for receiving the streamable component; and

computer program code for causing the communication device to receive the content in sequential sub-parts from the communication server.